

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claim in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A golf ball positioning device, comprising: a hopper and a tray configured to define an internal cavity when in a closed position, ~~the internal cavity being constituted at least by a truncated level and a base level each~~ that is configured to accommodate in a stable manner a respective layer of golf balls that together stack to form a truncated pyramidal shape, the hopper and tray being further configured to keep the golf balls stacked in the truncated pyramidal shape, ~~albeit inverted as the hopper and tray flip over while maintaining integrity of the internal cavity during the flip over, the truncated level being of a smaller dimension than the base level,~~ the hopper and tray each having a respective central region with a respective surface that extends within respective planes that are parallel to each other and each being of a dimension to stably self-support, and without toppling, the hopper and tray in the closed position as ~~either of the~~ respective surfaces rests each are alternately rested on a flat, horizontal surface one at a time.

Claim 2 (currently): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, wherein adjacent the respective central surface of the hopper are configurations that are shaped to complement counterpart configurations that are adjacent the respective central region surface of the tray.

Claim 3 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, further comprising retainers that engage each other to retain the hopper and the tray to each other

in the closed position, the hopper and tray being movable out of the closed position to an open position upon release of the retainers from engaging each other, the retainers being integrally formed with the hopper and the tray.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, wherein the one of the respective central regions of the tray and hopper has an indentation, the other of the respective central regions of the tray and the hopper has a configuration ~~that has a shape~~ that complements and is arranged in correspondence with the indentation ~~truncated level~~.

Claim 5 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 3, wherein the retainers include surfaces that slide against each other when bringing the tray and the hopper together to define the internal cavity.

Claim 6 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, further comprising a hinge connection that joins the hopper and the tray together.

Claim 7 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 6, wherein the hinge is configured to bias the hopper and the tray into the open position upon release of the retainers from each other.

Claim 8 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the hopper and tray have dimples spaced from each other that have a curvature.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A golf ball positioning device of claim 4, wherein the configuration ~~truncated level~~ and the indentation each have dimples arranged in correspondence with each other and that complement each other in shape.

Claim 10 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 4, wherein the hopper

and tray are configured to stably stack between two identical golf ball positioning devices when the hopper and tray are in the closed position with the indentation and shape of each engaging their complementary counterparts with the truncated level of the hopper fitted within a further indentation of a further tray of one of the identical golf ball positioning devices and with the indentation of the tray fitting a further truncated level of the other of the identical golf ball positioning devices.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A golf ball positioning device of claim 4 4, wherein the indentation is integral with the tray.

Claim 12 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, further comprising a spacer insert within the internal cavity.

Claim 13 (original): A golf ball positioning device of claim 12, wherein the spacer has a lid that may be open to provide access to an interior of the spacer.

Claim 14 (newly added): A golf ball positioning device of claim 8, wherein the curvature is selected from the group consisting of convex and concave.

Claim 15 (newly added): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, wherein hopper and tray are joined together to form a clam shell construction.

Claim 16 (newly added): A golf ball positioning device of claim 15, wherein the hopper and tray have a plurality of spaced apart dimple formations each with a curvature selected from the group consisting of concave and convex.

Claim 17 (newly added): A golf ball positioning device of claim 1, further comprising associated sidewalls that diverge outwardly from respective ones of the respective central regions to terminate at respective peripheries, the associated sidewalls engaging each other in the closed position so that their

Serial No. 10/542,399
Amendment Dated June 18, 2007
Responsive to Office Action dated May 9, 2007

respective peripheries where they terminate are at a position that is spaced from and between the parallel planes, the hopper and tray being configured so that resting each of the respective central regions one at a time upon the horizontal surface stably supports the hopper and tray in the closed position without toppling.

Claim 18 (newly added): A golf ball positioning device of claim 17, wherein hopper and tray are joined together to form a clamshell construction.

Claim 19 (newly added): A golf ball positioning device of claim 18, wherein the hopper and tray have a plurality of spaced apart dimple formations each with a curvature selected from the group consisting of concave and convex.